

Dear DSU and SILC representatives:

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-76) makes available \$78,305,000 in FY 2014 (October 1, 2014-September 30, 2015) Title VII, Chapter 1, Part C funds under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act), compared to \$75,771,549 in FY 2013. States' Part C allocations will increase by an average of 3.3 percent in FY 2014, subject to the population-based formula and the state minimums outlined in section 721(c) of the Act. This increase is higher than this year's 2.2 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA).

Montana is expected to receive \$839,761 in FY 2014 Part C funds. This represents an \$27,169 increase from FY 2013, of which \$9,292 is above your state's COLA. In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act's section 722(e) order of priority, RSA will distribute the portion of the increase above COLA among the centers for independent living based on your state's FY 2014-2016 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Specifically, SPIL section 3.2 will determine:

- 1) whether any of the increase above COLA will be used to establish a new CIL; and/or
- 2) how the Part C increase above COLA will be distributed among the existing CILs, i.e., proportionally, equally or by an alternative method.

To this end, please provide the information requested below via email by March 6, 2014:

- 1) Currently, section 3.2 of your 2014-2016 SPIL states that all geographic areas of the state are served by a Part C-funded CIL. Please confirm.
- 2) The SPIL states that additional Part C funds above COLA would be utilized to "equalize funding among the centers." However, this statement does not provide sufficient guidance regarding the amounts and/or percentage of the \$9,292 in available above-COLA funds that would go to the existing Part C CILs in your state. In order for RSA to distribute your state's FY 2014 Part C funds, you must provide indicate how the above-COLA funds are to be distributed to the state's four Part C CILs (e.g., proportionally, equally, other).

Given the nature of the requested information, RSA will likely require a SPIL amendment and corresponding public hearings with at least 30 days advance notice, pursuant to 34 CFR 364.20(g).

Feel free to contact me via email or telephone at 202-245-7425 if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Felipe Lulli  
IL Unit Representative